# Congress may approve LT Restoration Act in lame duck session

**By Darren Goode, Politico**

Democratic efforts to push through more than 100 public lands and water bills in the lame duck session are reaching a fever pitch, with the recognition this is the last chance many of them have to become law.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., has tasked Democratic leaders on at least three committees to come up with a list of bills that could get past a GOP filibuster.



The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act could be approved in this congressional session. Photo/Kathryn Reed

They may also need to be able to secure the two-thirds support that would be needed if the House tries to expedite the package without amendments in a tight legislative calendar.

Senate Environment and Public Works Chairwoman Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., told reporters Thursday that she has given Reid a draft list of bills to consider. That evolving list is believed to include plans to provide protection to the Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Lake Tahoe, the Gulf of Mexico and the San Francisco Bay.

“The issue is getting 60 votes, which we think we can,” Boxer said.

**Read the whole story**

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# Former Valhalla owners reminisce about Tahoe estate

**By Kathryn Reed**

CAMP RICHARDSON – Imagine nearly a hundred people in your house eating dinner and you don’t know most of them.

That was the reality Saturday night for Dee Dee and Raymond Goodrich. They used to own the Heller Estate. On Dec. 4 they were special guests for the Tahoe Tallac Association’s annual gala.

It was about 10 years since they were last in Lake Tahoe. The Goodrichs, who will have been married 68 years in January, came up in the summer. On camera they told stories of what life was like when they summered on the shores of Lake Tahoe, what the house was like, how it was decorated.



Dee Dee and Raymond Goodrich

Sitting near the large fireplace in what is now known as the Grand Hall, members of the family chatted before the festivities began. Then they took their seat at the head table.

The couple, who reside in Santa Cruz, spoke a bit with *Lake Tahoe News* that night about their 10 years of owning what is now considered a historic estate. They bought the property from Wilber Kuhl in 1955. He had bought it from heirs of Walter and Claire Heller who first built the estate in the 1920s.

Raymond Goodrich is quick to say he wished he'd never sold the place in 1965. At the time, the property was owned with two other couples. One of the partners died and the Goodrichs didn't have the money to buy the others out.

Each couple stayed one month during the summer. The Goodrichs said they had it best with August being their month.

Three fireplaces kept the wide-open wood and rock structure warm. Even though central heating has since been installed, the single-pane windows and drafty old doors prove spending the night at the estate would be a chilling experience.

But it was those cold winters that provided refrigeration all summer for the Goodrichs and others. Raymond Goodrich explained how part of what is now the boathouse theater was an icehouse. Ed Zeller was the caretaker who lived year-round at

the estate in a building near the boathouse that no longer exists. He made sure the blocks of ice were ready for summer.

“There was enough to last all summer,” Goodrich said of the ice.

The couple describes the stove they had as “monstrous.”

“It had eight burners and in the middle a griddle,” Dee Dee Goodrich said.

Her husband recalls many a morning watching Dee Dee making stacks and stacks of pancakes.

The expansive bottom floor where festivities are conducted is the same as it was when originally built. So is the U-shape upstairs.

Dee Dee Goodrich said besides the two suites there were three other bedrooms.

“There was a big sleeping porch, which was everyone’s favorite,” she said.

Raymond Goodrich often had to fly in for the weekends. At that time Lake Tahoe Airport’s runway was 6,000 feet. It’s 8,541 feet now. Having been a Navy pilot during World War II gave him plenty of practice landing on small strips.

The Goodrichs are pleased to see their old home being well cared for by the Tahoe Tallac Association. The association operates the summer arts festival at their old home and the boathouse. The vast lawn where croquet was once played by the Goodrich family, now is seldom used because of limitations the U.S. Forest Service has imposed on the association. The land is owned by the Forest Service, which acquired the property in 1971 from the South Tahoe Valhalla Corporation, the group the Goodrichs sold to. That group had planned to turn the area into a members-only yacht club.

While the land is now in public ownership, the Forest Service limits the access and uses. The 30-plus year prickly relationship between the arts group and Forest Service is said to be gradually softening.

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# Lawyer: Woman who sued El Dorado sheriff to lose job

**By Ed Fletcher, Sacramento Bee**

The second of three female community service officers who sued the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department has been served notice today that the department indends on terminate her.

The suit, filed in the U.S. District Court in July by Nicole Sahaj-Myers, Stacie Walls and Jona Scher, claims the department subjects women to harassment and discrimination. It's the second such suit filed in recent months.

**Read the whole story**

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# TAMBA meeting

TAMBA meeting Dec. 15 from 6-8pm in the Aspen Room (L103) at Lake Tahoe Community College, One College Drive, South Lake Tahoe.

The purpose of the mountain bike meeting is to begin forming the leadership and organizational structure of TAMBA.

# Nevada State Parks spends $1 mil. on recreation trails

The Nevada Division of State Parks has awarded nearly $1 million for outdoor recreational trails projects throughout Nevada.

Projects include motorized and non-motorized trails projects, building new trails, maintaining old trails and educational efforts. Getting children and families outdoors is an objective of State Parks and its recreational trails program.

The Federal Highway Administration funds the program.

The following projects were awarded in 2010:

* Pine Nut Mountain off-highway vehicle trail maintenance and signs in both Carson and Douglas Counties

* Sand Mountain OHV trail rehabilitation, maintenance and signs east of Fallon

* Shoshone OHV signs and trail building west of Austin

* Trail assessments on trails in 14 state parks

* Community Garden/The Greenhouse project in Carson City

* Tahoe Rim Trail Association guide training

* Nevada Outdoor School Outdoor Ethics education and OHV training used statewide

* Daggett Summit trail, a part of the Tahoe Rim Trail.

# El Dorado County hires CAO

Terri Daly, assistant chief administrative officer for El Dorado County, will lose the assistant part of her title starting Dec. 14.

The Board of Supervisors have chosen her to replace Gayle Erbe-Hamlin, who has retired.

Daly has been assistant CAO since July. Prior to that she was CAO in Amador County.

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# Gift collection for region's needy seniors

**By Anita Creamer, Sacramento Bee**

Through Dec. 15, more than 50 stores, nonprofit businesses and senior facilities in the Sacramento region will collect gifts to help brighten the holiday season for the area's needy elderly. The program, which is designed to help seniors in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado and Nevada counties, is called Be a Santa to a Senior and is sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care.

The local effort is an offshoot of a national program that has distributed 1.2 million gifts in the past six years.

**Read the whole story**

# Transformational healing music

Mount Shasta keyboardist, harmonica and tabla player Anton Mizerak, singer Laura Berryhill and Nepali maestro flautist Manose will present an afternoon of transformational healing music, Nepali folk tunes and chants from around the world on Dec. 12 at noon at Unity at the Lake in South Lake Tahoe.

Mizerak lives in Mount Shasta and writes his music in nature, believing that the organic experience of sun, wind, water, snow and earth, transmitted through music, can be a valuable nurturing and healing experience.

Mizerak plays keyboards and harmonica. His music has been featured on the nationally syndicated radio show “Echoes” and on the digital New Age Music format “Soundscapes”.

Unity at the Lake meets at the Senior Center, 3050 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe. For more information, call (530) 544.2266. A $10 donation is suggested.

# Ski report: Afternoon powder day

By afternoon it is likely to be a powder day on the slopes of Lake Tahoe, according to Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.



Here is Fong’s ski report for Dec. 6.

The storm is expected to subside later this morning. A wind advisory for Lake Tahoe is in effect until 10am by the National Weather Service in Reno.

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# Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe

Cricket is an energetic little black Chihuahua. His tail never stops wagging. He is very sweet, loves to go for walks, and he gets along well with other dogs.



He even seems to get along with cats.

Cricket is about 2 years old and would love to go home soon.

Cricket is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs, cats, kittens, and rabbits who are waiting for their new homes.

Call (530) 573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go online.

*– Karen Kuentz*